

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A relationship management system, comprising:
a first database that stores a plurality of user collections, each user collection including one or more first contact files, ~~with the different contact files within a particular user collection having data pertaining to different contacts~~ each first contact file including contact data that is unique to a particular one of the first contact files;
a second database that stores a firm collection, the firm collection including a ~~multiplicity of further~~ plurality of second contact files, ~~wherein each of the multiplicity of further contact files within the firm collection has~~ each second contact file having at least a portion of data associated in common with one of the contacts for which a contact file exists within at least one of the plurality of user collections first contact files; and
an administration routine stored in a memory and adapted to be executed on a processor to detect a change made to the common data of one of the first contact files ~~associated with a particular contact within one or more of the plurality of user collections,~~ and to send a message including the change to a data administrator interface, and, in response to the message, to at least one of approve, reject, or follow up on the change from the data administrator interface;
wherein approving the change prompts the administration routine to make a ~~corresponding~~ the change to the ~~further~~ common data of the corresponding second contact file ~~associated with the particular contact within the firm collection~~ and to make the change to the common data of the remaining user collections.

2. (Currently amended) The relationship management system of claim 1, further including a user collection change routine adapted to make a change to the common data of a contact file associated with the particular contact within a second one of the user collections based on the change made to the ~~further~~ common data of the corresponding second contact file associated with the particular contact within the firm collection.

3. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 2, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to provide a message to a firm administrator reflecting the nature of the detected change made to one of the contact files associated with a particular contact within one or more of the plurality of user collections.

4. (Currently amended) The relationship management system of claim 3, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to enable the firm administrator to accept or reject the ~~corresponding~~ detected change before the administration routine makes the ~~corresponding~~ change to the ~~further~~ common data of the corresponding second contact file associated with the particular contact within the firm collection.

5. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 3, wherein the administration routine includes a rule database that stores rules pertaining to the manner in which the detected change is to be processed.

6. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 5, wherein the rules are changeable by the administrator.

7. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 2, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to process the detected change to detect a suspected error within the detected change.

8. (Currently amended) The relationship management system of claim 7, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to provide a message to a firm administrator reflecting ~~the nature~~ a description of the suspected error within the detected change.

9. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 2, wherein each of the user collections includes a change attribute that specifies a manner in which a change made to the firm collection is to be reflected within the user collection.

10. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 9, wherein the change attribute, when set to a first value, specifies that a change to the firm collection is to be automatically made to the user collection.

11. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 9, wherein the change attribute, when set to a first value, specifies that a change to the firm collection is to be reported to a user having access to the user collection for which the change attribute exists.

12. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 9, wherein the change attribute, when set to a first value, specifies that a change to the firm collection is to be accepted by the user having access to the user collection for which the change attribute exists before being made to the user collection for which the change attribute exists.

13. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 2, wherein each of the user collections includes a visibility field that specifies if a change made to a contact file within the user collection is to be shared with the firm collection.

14. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 13, wherein each of the contact files includes a plurality of contact information fields and wherein the visibility flag specifies a visibility of one of the contact information fields.

15. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 13, wherein each of the contact files includes a plurality of contact information fields and wherein the visibility flag specifies a visibility of an entire contact file.

16. (Currently amended) The relationship management system of claim 2, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to process the detected change to detect the addition of a the first contact file for a contact within one of the user collections for which ~~a further~~ the second contact file already exists within the firm collection.

17. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 2, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to process the detected change to detect a user request for an administrator to make a change to the firm collection.

18. - 36. (Withdrawn)

37. (Currently amended) A relationship management system, comprising:
a database that stores a plurality of user collections, each user collection including one or more first contact files, with the different first contact files within a particular user collection having data pertaining to a different contacts, the database further storing a firm collection, the firm collection including a multiplicity of ~~further~~ second contact files, wherein each of the multiplicity of ~~further~~ second contact files within the firm collection has data associated with one of the contacts for which a first contact file exists within at least one of the plurality of user collections; and

an administration routine stored in a memory and adapted to be executed on a processor to detect a change made to one of the first contact files associated with a particular contact within one or more of the plurality of user collections, ~~and to send a message including the change to a data administrator interface, and, in response to the message, to at least one of approve, reject, or follow up on the change from the data administrator interface;~~

wherein approving the change prompts the administration routine to make a
~~corresponding~~ the change to the further the corresponding second contact file associated with ~~the particular contact within the firm collection.~~

38. (Currently amended) The relationship management system of claim 37, further including a user collection change routine adapted to make a change to common data of a first contact file associated with the particular contact within a second one of the user collections based on the change made to the ~~further~~ common data of the corresponding second contact file associated with the particular contact within the firm collection.

39. (Currently amended) The relationship management system of claim 38, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to provide a the message to a firm administrator at the data administrator interface, the message reflecting the nature of the detected change made to one of the contact files associated with a particular contact within one or more of the plurality of user collections.

40. (Currently amended) The relationship management system of claim 39, wherein the ~~administration routine is further~~ data administrator interface is adapted to enable the firm administrator to accept or reject the ~~corresponding~~ detected change before the administration routine makes the ~~corresponding~~ change to the ~~further common data of the~~ corresponding second contact file associated with the particular contact within the firm collection.

41. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 39, wherein the administration routine includes a rule database that stores rules pertaining to the manner in which the detected change is to be processed.

42. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 41, wherein the rules are changeable by the administrator.

43. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 38, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to process the detected change to detect a suspected error within the detected change.

44. (Currently amended) The relationship management system of claim 43, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to provide a message to a firm administrator reflecting ~~the nature~~ a description of the suspected error within the detected change.

45. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 38, wherein each of the user collections includes a change attribute that specifies a manner in which a change made to the firm collection is to be reflected within the user collection.

46. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 45, wherein the change attribute, when set to a first value, specifies that a change to the firm collection is to be automatically made to the user collection.

47. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 45, wherein the change attribute, when set to a first value, specifies that a change to the firm collection is to be reported to a user having access to the user collection for which the change attribute exists.

48. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 45, wherein the change attribute, when set to a first value, specifies that a change to the firm collection is to be accepted by the user having access to the user collection for which the change attribute exists before being made to the user collection for which the change attribute exists.

49. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 38, wherein each of the user collections includes a visibility field that specifies if a change made to a contact file within the user collection is to be shared with the firm collection.

50. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 49, wherein each of the contact files includes a plurality of contact information fields and wherein the visibility flag specifies a visibility of one of the contact information fields.

51. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 49, wherein each of the contact files includes a plurality of contact information fields and wherein the visibility flag specifies a visibility of an entire contact file.

52. (Currently amended) The relationship management system of claim 38, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to process the detected change to detect the addition of a the first contact file for a contact within one of the user collections for which a ~~further~~ the second contact file already exists within the firm collection.

53. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 38, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to process the detected change to detect a user request for an administrator to make a change to the firm collection.

54. (Original) A relationship management system, comprising:
a database that stores a plurality of first and second contact files, ~~with the contact files wherein each of the first contact files includes~~ having data pertaining to a different contacts and each of the second contact files includes data in common with a corresponding first contact file; and

an administration routine stored in a memory and adapted to be executed on a processor to detect a change made to one of the first contact files associated with a particular contact, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to provide a message to a firm administrator ~~reflecting the nature of including~~ the detected change made to one of the contact files ~~associated with a particular contact~~, the firm administrator at least one of approving, rejecting, or following up on the change;

wherein approving the change prompts the administration routine to make the change to the data in common with the corresponding first contact file.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 54, wherein the administration routine includes a rule database that stores rules pertaining to the manner in which the detected change is to be processed.

57. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 56, wherein the rules are changeable by the firm administrator.

58. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 54, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to process the detected change to detect a suspected error within the detected change.

59. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 58, wherein the administration routine is further adapted to provide a message to a firm administrator reflecting the nature of the suspected error within the detected change.

60.-66. (Withdrawn)

67. (Currently amended) A relationship management system, comprising:
a first database that stores a ~~plurality of~~ first and second user collections, each user collection including one or more contact files, with the different contact files within a particular each user collection having data pertaining to different contacts; and
a second database that stores a firm collection, the firm collection including a multiplicity of ~~further~~ duplicate contact files, wherein each of the multiplicity of ~~further~~ duplicate contact files within the firm collection has data associated with one of the contacts for which a contact file exists within at least one of the ~~plurality of~~ first and second user collections;
wherein the first user collection stores at least one contact file associated with a particular contact, the second user collection stores at least one contact file associated with the particular contact, and the firm collection stores the duplicate contact file associated with the particular contact file stored within the first and second user collections;
an administration routine, wherein the administration routine detects when a change is made to the at least one contact file associated with the particular contact within the first user collection;
wherein the first database provides a message to the administration routine reflecting the nature of the change made to the at least one contact file associated with the particular contact within the first user collection;

wherein, in response to the message to the administration routine, the administration routine provides a message to a firm administrator reflecting the nature of the change made to the at least one contact file associated with the particular contact within the first user collection;

wherein the firm administrator accepts or rejects the change based on the nature of the change;

wherein, upon accepting the change based on the nature of the change, the administration routine makes a corresponding change to the duplicate contact file associated with the particular contact within the firm collection; and

wherein, upon accepting the change based on the nature of the change, the administration routine makes the corresponding change to the particular contact within the second user collection.

68. (Canceled)

69. (Currently amended) The relationship management system of claim ~~68~~67, wherein each user collection is accessible by a different user and further comprising a display routine stored on a computer-readable medium, wherein the display routine is adapted to display the data pertaining to different contacts stored within each user collection to the user having access to the user collection.

70. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 67, wherein the firm collection is administered by a firm administrator.

71. - 73. (Canceled)

74. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 67, wherein each of the user collections includes a change attribute that specifies a manner in which a change made to the firm collection is to be reflected within the user collection.

75. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 74, wherein the change attribute, when set to a first value, specifies that a change to the firm collection is to be automatically made to the user collection.

76. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 74, wherein the change attribute, when set to a first value, specifies that a change to the firm collection is to be reported to a user having access to the user collection for which the change attribute exists.

77. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 74, wherein the change attribute, when set to a first value, specifies that a change to the firm collection is to be accepted by the user having access to the user collection for which the change attribute exists before being made to the user collection for which the change attribute exists.

78. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 67, wherein each of the user collections includes a visibility field that specifies if a change made to a contact file within the user collection is to be shared with the firm collection.

79. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 78, wherein each of the contact files includes a plurality of contact information fields and wherein the visibility flag specifies a visibility of one of the contact information fields.

80. (Original) The relationship management system of claim 78, wherein each of the contact files includes a plurality of contact information fields and wherein the visibility flag specifies a visibility of an entire contact file.

81.- 84. (Withdrawn)